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# CAPITAL LINE

## Testimony: Casey ignored warnings



UPI

**CASEY:** Liked Oliver North's style

Late CIA Director William Casey and ex-national security adviser Robert McFarlane shrugged off warnings from CIA officials that a 1985 plan to pay ransom for USA hostages in Lebanon was a "scam," according to testimony released Wednesday. Clair George, CIA deputy director for operations, also told congressional probes Aug. 5-6 that independent counsel Lawrence Walsh is checking into two missing CIA cables that alerted the CIA that U.S. arms were being shipped to Iran. George also said:

■ CIA officials were "bypassed" on the National Security Council plan to pay \$2 million ransom with private funds.

■ Casey overruled George's objections to using retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord and Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar. George was distrustful of Secord's past connections in international arms dealings and considered Ghorbanifar "a crook" and "a bum."

■ Lt. Col. Oliver North's engaging personality won him friends at the CIA, but a tendency toward exaggeration kept CIA officers skeptical of him. Casey was enamored of North because of the Marine's "action-oriented" manner.

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